

N.J. Roads. (Cunningham article)

NEW JERSEY
NEWARK LIBRARY

Newark Sunday News
MAGAZINE
Section V June 21, 1953



Color photo by Dorer.

ROUNDUP OF 'LET'S EXPLORE JERSEY' TRIPS ... SEE PAGE 3



Vista-Filled Routes Await Jersey Byway Explorers; So, for a Week-End of Fun Quit the Highways and Try Back Roads. Even Getting Lost Will Have Its Reward

BY JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

YOUR car swings off the hot concrete into the coolness of maple trees hanging over the macadam. The road meanders, following the course of a brook bubbling through banks clustered with laurel. Ahead is relaxation, ahead is peace and quiet, ahead is a New Jersey just waiting to be enjoyed.

The pity is that there isn't enough adventure in the souls of most motorists to lure them into a byway, unmarked by signs and unmarred by billboards. That's why Routes 6 and 10 and 23 and 22 and other just like them are so aggravatingly clogged on a week-end. That's why every Sunday as Dad puts the car away he moans, "Never again, not on Sunday!"

That's what Dad thinks. Come the next nice Sunday—today maybe—and Mother will look out at the blue sky and say, "Let's go for a ride." No man who hopes for peace the rest of the week can do much except get out the old bus, head out on the highway and hope some people will either stay home or go somewhere else.

Or, he can pick up a road map and study it.

TRACE your finger along Route 23 out of Montclair, up to where Route 202 turns north off 23. Then follow 202 up through Pompton Lakes, past the very handsome falls in the Ramapo River, and up to Oakland.

See that little road to the left out of Oakland, twisting northwestward to Lake Erskine? It's West Oakland avenue out of Oakland, becomes Tamarack road as it heads directly up and over the rugged Ramapo Mountains. It's also known as "Skyline drive"—and the driver who reaches the top for the first time is in for a scenic thrill.

Civilization has not yet climbed the mountain.

(Continued on Following Page)

The sweep of curving road in northeastern Morris County is an invitation to motoring

and (below) Sparta Glen, near Sparta, one of the gateways to the beauties of Sussex.



Staff photos by Doran.



Panorama from Skyline Drive overlooks thousands of acres of unbroken forestland reaching to the Ramapo Mountains.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

Huge boulders strewn by the roadside tell of the rigors encountered by the builders of the road. Ahead, as far as the eye can see in any direction, stretch thousands of acres of forest, broken only by distant lakes and reservoirs.

Downward the road leads to the tremendous Wanaque Reservoir, 6½ miles long and capable of impounding 27,000,000,000 gallons of water. Wooded lands rise sharply from the reservoir, indicating the sylvan nature of the terrain before the valley was dammed.

THE motorist does well if he stays on the roads near the reservoir. To the north is Ringwood Manor State Park, once one of the iron mining centers of the state. Here the old 78-room Manor House, formerly the property of the celebrated Cooper and Hewitt families, is open as a museum. Nearby are picnic facilities, in the likely event that a loaded basket is in the trunk.

Another splendid ride in the Wanaque area is that out West Brook road, across the narrow waist

in the middle of the reservoir. This leads to Macopin, where the traveler has a wide choice of destinations. He can turn south, to ride along Echo Lake Reservoir, or north to West Milford. A ride down Union Valley road from West Milford to Route 23 is rich in natural beauty, along the route in the valley between Bearfort and Kanouse mountains.

Look at the map again. This time find Boonton, then Powerville, to the northwest of Boonton. That's the key to a ride up the neat countryside in the northeast part of Morris County. This is well-developed farmland, right close to home, with scenery varying from the much-photographed falls at Powerville to panoramic views where the way dips up and down over the hills.

Powerville is the key to another attractive ride, up Rockaway Valley to Meridan, Beach Glen, Hibernia and Marcella, in the heart of the once-booming Morris County iron industry. A road map is vital—and consult it often—but even without the road map, how lost can you get in Morris County (and if you mind getting lost on country roads, don't be an explorer).

Still using a spot close by for a takeoff, roll north out of Dover on Route 15 to Berkshire Valley and take the side road up Longwood Valley.

This is verdant country, with the Rockaway River coursing beside the road. Great trees tower over the route, giving shade the entire distance. By following the road past Lake Swannanoa almost to Route 23 and then heading back via Oak Ridge road, the ride encompasses views of Oak Ridge Reservoir.

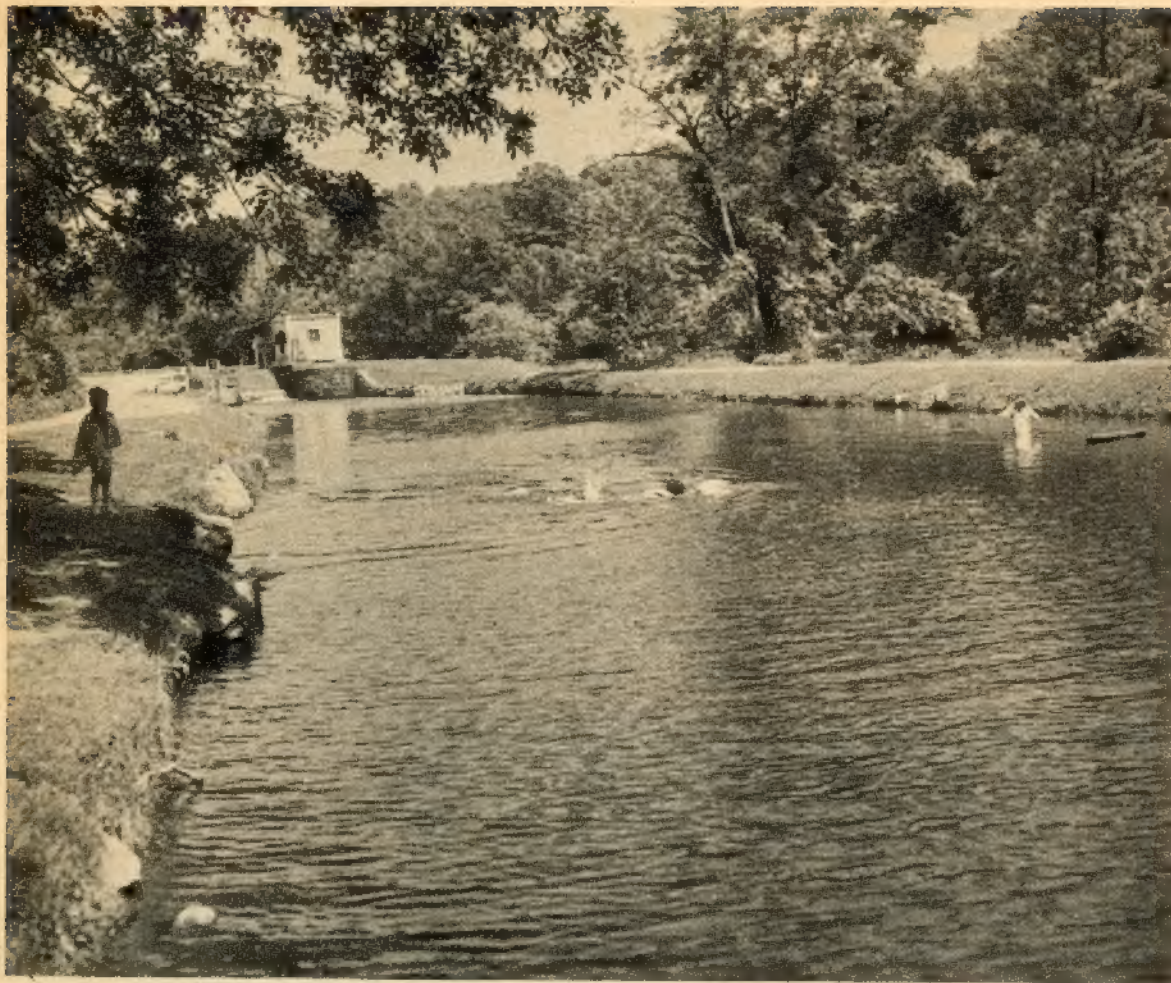
As an added touch, as long as you're in the area, take the family over to Russia (it's on the map, just the other side of Milton). Look sharp—this Russia has a population about one 200,000th of that of its namesake.

WIND up this tour with a swing westward along the excellent macadam road to Sparta, and on the way look for signs pointing to Sparta Glen. This is worth a visit, although the narrow road makes passage somewhat difficult if the driver is more disgruntled than adventurous.

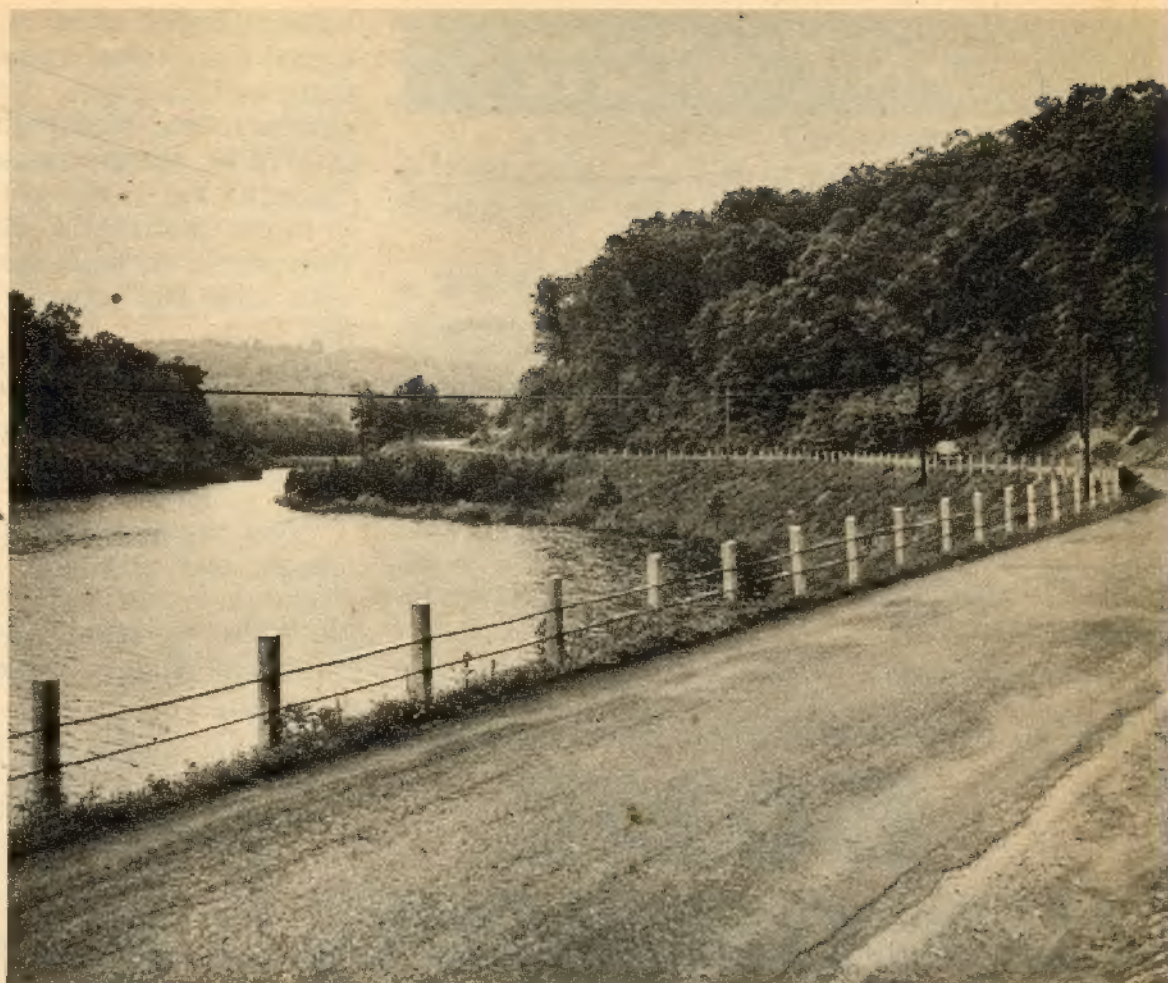
Sparta, as any lover of the Jersey scene knows, is one of the gateways to Sussex County—the state's



Along the Pequett River, near Belvidere, and (left) the view from the base of High Point Monument, the highest spot in New Jersey (1,803 feet above sea level), overlooking Lake Marcia.



The swimming is fun—and safe—near the old locks of the long-abandoned canal at state-owned Saxton Falls, near Hackettstown.



Scenic road runs the length of Wanaque Reservoir in Passaic County. The water "preserve" is 6½ miles long and a mile wide.

scenic best. Almost any road leads to surprises and eye-filling rewards in hilly, woody Sussex.

Take, for example, the road north of Route 23 at Stockholm. This rises steadily through the forests until it suddenly levels off and then dips sharply downward to Vernon Valley. This is a panorama which remains ever in the memory of the viewer. This is an invitation to the valley, to villages in the vicinity such as McAfee, Glenwood, Wantage, Owens. Look at your map. Follow these roads. You'll never regret it.

As the roads rise and dip in the upper part of Sussex County, the vision occasionally takes in the distinctive monument atop High Point, highest spot in New Jersey (1,803 feet above sea level).

High Point is, of course, the ultimate in Jersey scenery. Beauty stretches in every direction from the monument. Cool Lake Marcia invites swimmers. Picnic tables and fireplaces in the woods urge a stop. You'll never go wrong taking the family to High Point.

That goes for Stokes State Forest, too. Plenty of picnic spots await the traveler. Hiking trails wend

through the trees. Down on the west side, Tillman's Ravine is a gorge of rare beauty, probably the finest in the state. Up on the east side is Sunrise Mountain, possibly the best scenic outlook in New Jersey. Once you start exploring Stokes State Forest, however, don't be surprised if the family no longer merely says, "Let's take a ride," and says, instead, "Let's go to Stokes."

STATE parks and forests are obvious places to visit, and while High Point and Stokes are the most prominent in North Jersey, there are lots of others — Swartswood Lake, Jenny Jump, Stephens State Park, Hopatcong State Park, Hacklebarney, Voorhees.

Swartswood Lake is especially attractive. It's west of Newton, just a nice ride from the city. The fishing is excellent, and the picnic area, set among beautiful old hemlocks in Emmons Grove, has swimming, boating, picnicking and fishing as its four-point call to the motorist.

Maybe you don't like swimming, boating, picnicking or fishing. You just like scenery. All right,

then, in Newton, follow the back road down to Huntsburg, Johnsonburg and Hope. The road hugs the side of the mountain all the way, passing abandoned slate quarries and looking out to the east over apple orchards to the sharply defined peaks so typical of the state's Highlands.

Hope is certain to please any one interested in Americana, since the old stone buildings (including an old mill) were built early in the 19th Century by the Moravians who came overland from Bethlehem, Pa. Hope is uniquely different and well worth a visit. And, for the hungry kids on the back seat, the picnicking is good at nearby Jenny Jump State Forest.

Closer to home, a trip worth taking is that from Netcong to Hackettstown, via Waterloo and Saxton Falls.

Get that map out again. See Waterloo, north and west of Netcong? Take Route 206 out of Netcong, look for the Waterloo sign and you're headed for a pleasant day. At various intervals reminders of the long-abandoned Morris Canal can be seen—in the

(Continued on Following Page)



Ringwood Manor House in the state-owned park and (right) a farm with old-fashioned air near Macopin, in Upper Passaic County.



SCENIC STATE

(Continued from Preceding Page)

broad water-filled ditch by the side of the road, in quaint old Waterloo, at Saxton Falls, where part of one of the old locks is still intact.

Close by Saxton Falls is Stephens State Park, a good picnic spot (there's always some one hungry). Down the valley, visit the State Fish Hatchery in Hackettstown, and there won't be a member of the family who won't agree the day has been well spent. Head back for Morristown over Schooley's Mountain to Long Valley and follow scenic Route 24 through Chester and Mendham to Morristown. Midway between Long Valley and Chester, if picnicking is on the schedule, do your outdoor dining at Hacklebarney State Park.

Maybe history is the thing in mind. Why go to

Valley Forge? Stop at Morristown National Historical Park (where you'll see tourists from as far away as California). See the handsome old headquarters Gen. Washington occupied in the Winter of 1778-79, see the house where little Tempe Wick sheltered her horse, see reproductions of the huts in which Continental soldiers spent a bitter Winter. This part of America can be visited again and again with pride and satisfaction.

THAT'S only a start. Pick up the road map and take it from there. Find Washington State Park, down along the Delaware River. That's an all-encompassing day's outing—history, scenery (and picnic tables).

Find the Sourland Mountain, where Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset counties meet. Visit that mountain to see wild country that is giving away but slowly to man's gestures. Visit attractive old Hopewell. This is a splendid land.

Hunterdon County has countless charming regions to visit. Take Flemington as a hub. Ride down to Sergeantsville, where the only covered bridge within the state can be seen; to Stockton, set delightfully beside the Delaware River; to hilly Lambertville, where streets have an early 19th Century air.

Another vista-filled route is out of Flemington to Frenchtown, over the Hunterdon plateau. Then head up the river to Milford and return by way of Quakertown. Old stone houses, river scenery, well-ordered farms, all Hunterdon's stock in trade, are along the way.

All right, Dad, you've said, "Never again."

But Mother has said, "We'll go for a ride. Today."

Make everybody happy, including (maybe especially) yourself. Get out a road map. Figure a spot to get off the four-lane highway. Explore. Get lost, a little. You'll come back well rewarded.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

ANDERSON CONSTRUCTION CO.

Alterations or Additions



AS LOW AS
\$5
MONTHLY

No Job Too Large
or Too Small

ATTICS	CELLARS	DORMERS
PLUMBING	ELECTRIC	PLASTERING
BRICK	TILE	PORCHES
LEADERS	GUTTERS	PAINTING
ROOFING	SIDING	SLATE

Stone fronts, aluminum windows, roofing and siding, all types and makes. All types of flooring, inside or out. Kitchens and baths brought up to date. Steps, wood, brick, iron railings. Painting, exterior and interior. All repairs done prior to painting.

Distance No Object

FINANCING ARRANGED IN YOUR HOME
NO SALESMEN—GUARANTEED WORK

CALL ANYTIME—ORANGE 5-6093

CALL MR. R. ANDERSON



Street scene in Hope. Town's stone buildings are early 19th Century products.

COVER PHOTO

Visitors admiring the attractions of Swartswood Lake, west of Newton. It is one of the state's park areas with swimming, boating, picnicking and fishing to appeal to the motorist.



This setting near Glenwood is another of Sussex County's eye-fillers.